COMIC SHOP NEWS™

1156

FLASH: REBIRTH

SUPERBOY RETURNS!

Written by
GEOFF JOHNS

Art by
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Adventure COMICS

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AUGUST 2009

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Comic-Con International: San Diego!

Every year, San Diego's Comic-Con is the place where publishers promote their highest-profile projects, break their biggest news of the year, and interact with legions of fans. This year was no exception: from July 23rd through the 26th, San Diego was ground zero for the comics world. Here's a look at the news highlights from the big event.

Flash Forward

Barry Allen fans who thought that ***Flash: Rebirth*** was the only big Barry Allen event in the works will be pleased to know that this six-part series is just the beginning of a full-fledged Flash rush on the DCU.

Soon after ***Rebirth*** finishes its run, *Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins* will produce ***Blackest Night: Flash***, a limited series that plays a pivotal role in the current ***Blackest Night*** saga. The book will be a sort of continuation of Johns & Kolins' ***Flash*** run and ***Rogues' Revenge***, and will feature "lots of dead Rogues." (Johns reminded fans that the current ***Flash: Rebirth*** takes place *before* ***Blackest Night***, while the new limited series will be set smack-dab in the middle of the dead-raising event.)

Johns is also writing the new ***Flash*** series, which will debut after ***Blackest Night: Flash*** is complete. The new series will focus on both Barry Allen and Wally West, as well as a new speedster who'll debut in ***Flash: Rebirth***. "Every Flash in the Flash Universe will be a major player in both ***Rebirth*** and ***Flash***," Johns said.

And it turns out there was even more Flash news! Johns revealed that, shortly after the launch of the new ***Flash*** title, *Sterling Gates* will write a new ongoing ***Kid Flash*** series. "We're going to be working in unison like Pete [Tomasi] and I work on ***Green Lantern*** and ***Green Lantern Corps***," Johns told ***Comic Book Resources*** (www.comicbookresources/com).

And of course, there was the news that Johns has been tapped to both produce and co-write the live action ***Flash*** movie. *Dan Mazeau* will write the script from Johns' treatment.

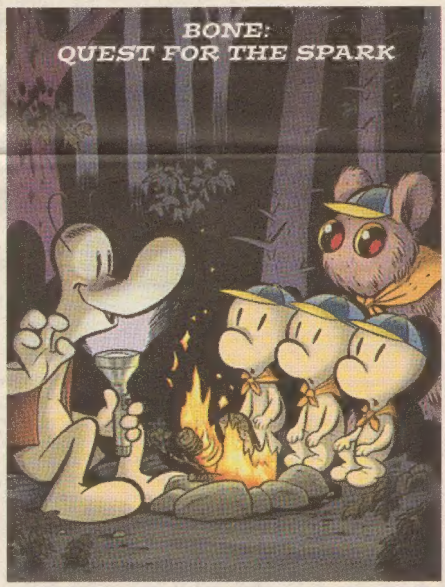
Look for ***Blackest Night: Flash*** to launch in late fall, with ***Flash*** and ***Kid Flash*** following in 2010.

Scholastic Bones Up on Graphic Novels

Scholastic helped to make *Jeff Smith's* ***Bone*** famous to readers around the world with their color repackaging of Smith's acclaimed series. But what do ***Bone*** fans have to look forward to now that the series has been completed?

Howsabout more ***Bone***?

Beginning next year, Scholastic will offer ***Bone: Tall Tales***, the first in a series of new books by Smith featuring characters from the Boniverse. Written by *Jeff Smith & Tom Sniegoski* and illustrated by Smith, the book will present a number of tales focusing on ***Bone's*** rich and colorful cast. Also in the works is a highly-anticipated expansion of the ***Bone*** world—the ***Quest for the Spark*** trilogy. Overseen and illustrated by Smith, the trilogy will be written by *Tom Sniegoski*. The saga begins with ***Bone: Quest for the Spark: Book One*** in fall 2010, continuing in ***Bone: Quest for the Spark: Book Two*** in spring 2011, and concluding in ***Bone: Quest for the Spark: Book Three*** in the summer of 2011. This marks the first major expansion of the Boniverse since the publication of ***Rose***, the prequel to the ***Bone*** series (slated for reissue by Scholastic this month)



"Jeff Smith has hinted over the years that there's more to discover in the world of ***Bone***," said *David Saylor*, Vice President, Creative Director of Scholastic Trade Publishing and Editorial Director of Graphix, a Scholastic imprint. "So it's an incredibly exciting moment for Scholastic and for fans of ***Bone*** that we'll now be publishing books that extend and enrich Jeff's brilliantly original series."

"I always said I would find a way to draw more ***Bone*** stories, and now I have," *Jeff Smith* said. "Tom is great to work with and we're going to have a lot of fun!"

Make Mine Marvelman!

Marvel has purchased the rights to ***Marvelman***, the classic British hero who was renamed ***Miracleman*** when he made his American debut in the 1980s. Marvel bought the rights to the character from creator *Mick Anglo* and his representatives. "It is an honor to work with *Mick Anglo* to bring

his creation to a larger audience than ever before," said *Dan Buckley*, CEO & Publisher, Print, Animation & Digital Media, Marvel Entertainment Inc. "Fans are in for something special as they discover just what makes Marvelman such an important character in comic book history."

Originally created in 1954 by *Mick Anglo* and appearing in some of the most celebrated comic stories of all time, Marvelman is Micky Moran, a young reporter gifted with the power to save the world by simply uttering the word "kimota!"

"I did not think it would ever happen," Anglo said. "It's a wonderful thing to see my creation finally back."

Take note, though: Marvel has *not* as of yet announced plans to reprint the most in-demand ***Marvelman-Miracleman*** material of all: the Eclipse run of the series, which featured work by *Alan Moore* and *Neil Gaiman*, among others. This is the material that has been the focus of all sorts of legal maneuvering, with *Todd McFarlane* and *Neil Gaiman* going to court to try to determine just who controlled that material. "We are talking to all the people involved in the '80s/'90s material—Alan, Neil, *Mark Buckingham*," *Dan Buckley* said. If and when a final agreement on this material is reached, you'll hear about it in *CSN!*

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Shooter Makes a Valiant Effort at Dark Horse

Jim Shooter, one of the founders of the late, oft-lamented Valiant Comics, is returning to some of the characters he made famous—but this time, his work will appear under the Dark Horse banner. The company, which has reprinted ***Magnus***, ***Solar***, and other classic Gold Key titles (some of whom were licensed by Valiant and formed a core part of their comics line), also has the rights to revive these properties, and they're bringing Shooter in to take charge of the relaunch.

"We're going to start from scratch and reinvent them," Shooter said of such books as ***Doctor Solar: Man of the Atom***, ***Mighty Samson***, ***Turok, Son of Stone***, and ***Magnus Robot Fighter 4000 AD***. "As you know, I have a long history with these characters. I'm going to give this my best shot. With Mike's help [referring to Dark Horse publisher *Mike Richardson*], all things are possible."

Look for the books to launch in early 2010.

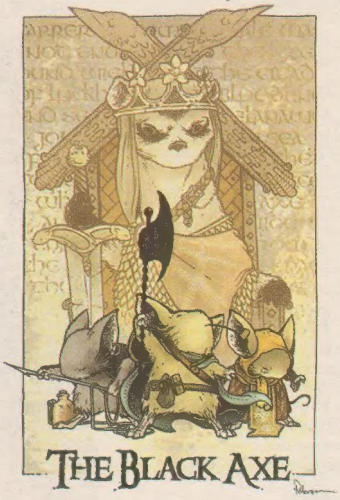
Archaia

•*Zachary Quinto*, well known for his roles in the TV series ***Heroes*** and this year's hit film ***Star Trek***, is developing comic book projects in conjunction with Archaia and his company, Before the Door Pictures. ""Our goal is to tell good comic book stories," Quinto told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "I know there's a little bit of skepticism among true comic book die-hards where Hollywood sweeps in and sort of makes up stories so they can go off and spin them into multi-million-dollar franchises. And that's really not our goal.

"I think Archaia and our decision to work with them is emblematic of our desire to be ambitious in our story-telling within this medium," he said. "Our primary goals are to tell good stories, to align ourselves with great artists, and to see where that goes. That's not to say we aren't open to the evolution of those stories down the line. But our first priority is to be respectful and to be successful within the comic book world."

The first two projects from Quinto's company and Archaia are ***Mr. Murder Is Dead***, a dark adventure/suspense tale about 65-year-old men who find themselves trapped in the middle of a noir series, written by *Victor Quinaz*; and ***Lucid***, written by *Michael McMillian* (who plays anti-vampire minister Steve Newlin on ***True Blood***). While Quinto will not be writing any of the projects, he is involved in developing the concepts.

•Acclaimed fantasy illustrator *Brian Froud*, whose artwork was the visual inspiration for such Jim Henson films as ***The Dark Crystal*** and ***Labyrinth***, will serve as visual designed for the upcoming Henson line of comics slated for publication from Archaia. The first book in the line will be ***Fraggle Rock***, a spring 2010 release that will feature long and short stories in an anthology format.



•The next *Brian Petersen* ***Mouse Guard*** book, ***Black Axe***, will be set several generations after the events of the most recent ***Mouse Guard*** series.

Boom

•*Rockne S. O'Bannon & Keith DeCandido* will launch a new ongoing ***Farscape*** series later this year, replacing the "series of miniseries" approach that has been prevalent in the ***Farscape*** line thus far. According to editor *Matt Gagnon*, O'Bannon is supervising the project and has "made sure it was in canon."

•Two of Boom's mega-successful all-ages Disney-licensed titles—***The Incredibles*** and ***The Muppet Show***—will graduate from limited series to ongoing series status later this year.

•*Phil Hester & Brian Churilla* are launching a new ongoing series, ***The Anchor***, at Boom. The book is about a divine enforcer who stands between heaven and Earth, protecting humanity from the monsters who attempt to escape from hell.

•*Mark Waid & Minck Oosterveer* will collaborate on a second ***Unknown*** miniseries, which follows a terminal detective who hopes to solve the mystery of what happens when you die.

Dark Horse

•*Gerard Way* is working with Dark Horse on a new series, ***The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys***, which will be co-written by *Shaun Simon* and illustrated by *Becky Cloonan*. The book, which is not a part of the ***Umbrella Academy*** saga, is a mature-readers title set in the 90s in modern America that is "about a guy who wants his Ramones records back," Way said. His musical quest takes him on a "violent six-issue odyssey."

•Way hasn't forgotten his legions of ***Umbrella Academy*** fans, however: a new series, ***Umbrella Academy: Hotel Oblivion***, is in the works. "I'm more excited about ***Hotel Oblivion*** than any of the series so far," Way said. "My goal for this series is to have the least amount of the ***Umbrella Academy*** team in here. There's a lot of crazy stuff in this book, and I'm excited about it."

•Dark Horse has landed the rights to ***Chobits*** (formerly published by TokyoPop) and ***MPD Psycho***.

•*Mike Mignola & Christopher Golden's* illustrated novel ***Baltimore: Or, the Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire***, is being adapted to comics.

•A series entitled ***One-Shot Wonders*** is in the works, and it will feature oneshots focusing on such concepts as *Joss Whedon's* ***Sugarshock*** and ***Dr. Horrible***, ***Star Wars***, and ***Conan***.

•In addition to the oneshot, more ***Dr. Horrible*** comics are in the works for 2010.

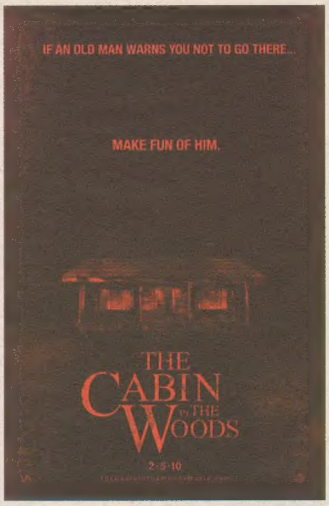
•*Patton Oswalt* approached *Joss Whedon* with a pitch for a comic about the character Wash from ***Firefly/Serenity***; Whedon liked the idea, so the book is in the works.

•*Eric Powell* is working on a series of ***Metalocalypse*** comics after the ***Goon/Metalocalypse*** crossover.

•Best-selling author *Janet Evanovich* will bring her lesser-known Alexandra Barnaby series to comics in 2010. "This is her first step into comics, and she was being chased by all the publishers," Dark Horse's *Mike Richardson* said.

•Comics legend *Jerry Robinson* is bringing his 1950s comic strip ***Jet Scott*** to Dark Horse in 2010. ***Jet Scott*** is a 1950's comic strip produced by *Sheldon Stark* and Robinson focusing on a science investigator.

•Dark Horse has landed the license for ***Mass Effect 2***, which the company is "treating as our next ***Star Wars*** or ***Aliens*** or ***Predator***," *Mike Richardson* said. The game company is closely involved in the production of the comic to ensure that it maintains the overall vision and direction of ***Mass Effect***.



•*Joss Whedon* is working on a tie-in comic for his 2010 film ***Cabin in the Woods***, co-written with *Drew Goddard* (who is also directing the movie). The plan is to have the comic debut at the same time as the film. "It is definitely a horror movie, and there is a cabin. And not-great things happen in it," Whedon said. "The idea behind the comic was to explore the history and mythology and the bad things happening. It's a very old cabin. It has a rich and storied history of appalling things." Whedon said that the comic will be "kind of intuitive of the old ECs, the Graham Ingels feel, the really classic, horrible tales. That might provide a little insight into the film without stepping on too much."

•*Ricardo Delgado* will present the third installment of his ***Age of Reptiles*** wordless dinosaur comics series next year.

•The classic Archie comics of the Golden Age get the ***Archives*** treatment next year with the release of ***Archie Archives***, licensed from Archie Comics. (This is the second line of licensed ***Archie*** reprint books, following last month's IDW announcement of ***Archie*** comic strip reprints and themed collections.

•*John Arcudi & Rick Leonardi* bring together Dark Horse's relaunched ***Aliens*** and ***Predator*** franchises in ***Aliens Vs. Predator: Three World War***.

•***Blacksad***, the anthropomorphic-noir series by *JUan Diaz Canales & Juanjo Guarnido*, will return to print next year from Dark Horse.

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! HOW CAN I CREATE ADAMANTIUM?
I DUNNO! I'M NOT THE GUY WHO MADE MY CLAWS!
"THEY WERE IMPLANTED THERE -- PART OF A SECRET GOVERNMENT PROJECT."
WELL, WHAT THE GOVERNMENT GIVETH...
DR. OCTOPUS CAN TAKE AWAY!
!
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Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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The company will not only reprint the two volumes previously released by iBooks, but will offer a third volume never before offered in English translation.

•*Torajiro Kishi* and Madhouse Studios are working on an original Japanese manga, ***Devil***, which features genetically designed vampires in a sci-fi police drama set in Tokyo.

•*Dean Motter* returns to one of his best known creations with the original project ***Electropolis: The Infernal Machine***, which features a cameo appearance by Mister X.

•Eisner winner Rafael Grampá's psychedelic small-press project ***Mesmo Delivery*** is slated for release by Dark Horse, along with his six-part post-apocalyptic thriller ***Furry Water***, co-written by *Daniel Pellizzari.*

•***The Art of Blade of the Immortal*** will present an English-language translation of the Hiroaki Samura art book, adding 32 bonus pages never before seen anywhere.

•Dark Horse comics and *Felicia Day*, one of the stars of *Joss Whedon's* ***Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog***, are teaming up to produce a comic book based on Day's online web sitcom ***The Guild***. The series follows six players, AKA "Guildies" (Bladezz, Codex, Vork, Tinkerballa, Zaboo, and Clara), who decide to finally meet in real life after spending months playing together in an online world. Their individual social dysfunctions lead to several problems in the real world, but together, as in the online game, they become greater than the sum of their collected baggage and start to become... normal...

The series will feature all-new material that expands on the actual in-game environment never seen on the show.

"Felicia's amazing, and her writing will translate smoothly into comics," editor *Scott Allie* said. "This'll make a great companion to our line of comics. It'll fit great alongside our webcomics and our Whedon books. And I'm really looking forward to working with her to get into some areas the show simply can't because of budgetary reasons."

I'm really excited to work in a new medium and expand the Guild universe," Day added. "The comics will be a great way for fans to become more involved with the characters, and see the characters interact in environments that we can't afford to show in the web series. I can't imagine working with a better company than Dark Horse. It seems like a perfect match for the show. Indie cred to the max!"

DC

•*Dan DiDio* said that the long-awaited ***Ambush Bug: Year None #6*** should see print in the next month or so.

•*Paul Dini* is working on an ongoing ***Zatanna*** series that will be solicited once a sufficient inventory has been built up to ensure that the book will appear on schedule.

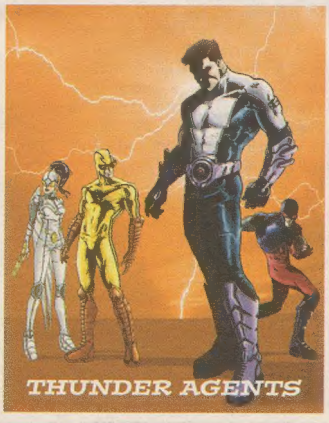
•DC's Sales VP *Bob Wayne* confirmed that the entire run of ***Hitman*** will be collected in trade paperback.

•*Jock* will take over as artist of the Batwoman feature in ***Detective Comics*** for three months after seven *JH Williams III*-illustrated issues. After that, the Question will move to the lead feature position, with Batwoman moving to the backup post for a few months.

•*James Robinson* has confirmed that, when he and *Mark Bagley* take over ***Justice League of America*** this October, there'll be some major additions to the lineup. Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman will be a part of the

team... sort of. In this case, though, the Superman in question is Mon-El in a new uniform with a color pattern that is a reversal of Superman's red and blue, along with a Superman symbol over the left chest area); the Batman is, of course, Dick Grayson; and the Wonder Woman role is filled by Donna Troy. Congorilla will also be a major part of the team.

•At long last, DC will be launching its ***THUNDER Agents*** series—and not only are they appearing under the DC imprint, but these ***THUNDER Agents*** will be a part of the DC Universe. "These are going to be characters interacting with the DC Universe," DCU Executive Editor *Dan DiDio* said, comparing it to the company's handling of Red Circle and Milestone characters. The characters will debut in another series before graduating to their own books (much the same as was done with the Milestone characters). "Making this a part of the DC Universe is such an exciting thing, and I can't wait to be a part of it," *James Robinson* added.



•After *Bill Willingham* and *Matthew Sturges* wrap up their first arc on ***Justice Society of America***, the writing team is splitting up. Don't worry, there's nothing unpleasant happening here: Willingham is remaining on the creative team of the monthly ***Justice Society of America***, while *Sturges* is launching a new series, ***JSA All Stars***, illustrated by *Freddie E. Williams III*. "We're going to have two teams working independently of each other," Sturges said. The series begins when a new JSA team forms in order to pursue a more proactive agenda to handling the villains populating the planet—but this plan doesn't sit well with some of the JSA's most stalwart members.

•Readers curious to see what writer *James Robinson* has in store for the JLA when he takes over as writer of ***Justice League of America*** need to be checking out his ***Justice League: Cry for Justice*** limited series. "Originally this book was just a miniseries," Robinson said. "Now issue 5, 6 and 7 of it each have a big surprise. It's going to culminate with something have long-lasting effects in the DC Universe. It will dovetail directly into me taking over the ***Justice League*** comic book, where you're going to see a lot of follow-up afterwards."

•It wouldn't be a San Diego con without someone asking about plans for a new ***Aquaman*** series. Alas, *Dan DiDio* said that there are no plans right now.

Vertigo/DC

•*Fabio Moon & Gabriel Ba* are working on a new series, ***Daytripper***, slated to debut later this year. The story revolves around the son of Brazil's most prolific writer—and how the protagonist's life differs from his father's. "This is a story about a guy who hasn't succeeded yet," Ba said, adding, "my brother and I wanted to do a story about how you can meet someone and that person can completely change your life."

•*John Evans & Andre Rubi* are producing ***The Executor***, the story of a washed-up athlete who is named executor of his high school sweetheart's will after her murder. Secrets about his own life creep up as he investigates the murder. "It's really tense and very tightly plotted, so it falls into the thriller category," editor Will Dennis said.

•*Anderson Gabrych* is the writer of ***Fogtown***, described by editor *Will Dennis* as "probably the most traditional in the sense that it's a Mike Hammer-esque character in San Francisco in the '60s." s

•*Gary Phillips & Brian Hurt* team for ***Cowboys***, which the writer described as the story of two undercover operatives – one from the police force and one from the FBI. "There's a prerequisite number of sexy and violent scenes," joked Phillips, but he said the focus will remain "what draws these two men together in terms of confrontation" after a ***Godfather***-style slaying at a restaurant

•*Max Allan Collins* will return to a milieu he knows quite well in ***Return to Perdition***, the final book in the ***Perdition*** saga that began with Collins' hit graphic novel ***The Road to Perdition***. Collins said the book will be a third generation tale set in the 1970s.

•*Chris Roberson & Mike Allred* are working on a new project, ***I, Zombie***, which is quite different from the all-too-typical zombie tales. Roberson described the lead character as a "zombie girl detective" and described her story as an undead girl who must eat human brains once a month to retain her own memories—but for a short amount of time after brain consumption she must share her head with the mind of the brain she consumed—in turn helping them come to rest by carrying out their last remaining memories of their lives before they died. Roberson joked, "There's also a love triangle between our lead, a mummy, and a were-terrier. It's killer."

•*Matt Johnson*, the writer of ***Incognegro***, is working on a new graphic novel, ***Red Rain: Story of Katrina***, a heist drama focusing on two people caught in the midst of the horrifying hurricane.

•*Grant Morrison* is working on a new Vertigo project, ***Joe the Barbarian***, which he describes as "***Lord of the Rings*** meets ***Home Alone***," according to *Karen Berger*. The lead

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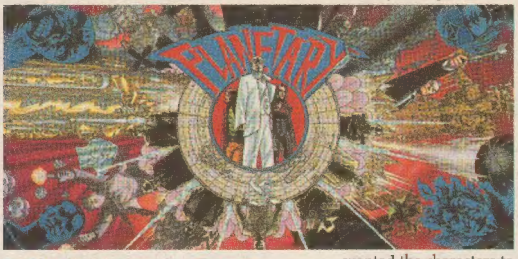
character is a diabetic who, when he doesn't properly manage his sugar levels, hallucinates and becomes immersed ina fantasy world.

•*Christos Gage* is writing ***Area 10*** for Vertigo. The series revolves around a detective who suffers a strange head wound that just might give hem ESP-like abilities... or then again, he might just be delusional.



WildStorm/DC

•The long-awaited final issue of ***Planetary*** is completed and ready for October release. In conjunction with the release of ***Planetary*** #27, WildStorm will reissue the out-of-print ***Absolute Planetary*** editions.

•*Gail Simone* is working on a new ***Welcome to Planetary*** project that will be a direct sequel to the critically acclaimed twelve-part series about a small town that serves as a ***Eureka***-esque home to superpowered beings.

•*Brian Wood & Rebecca Isaacs* are the creative team behind the relaunch of ***DV8*** in an eight-part series launching in 2010. "I've been wanting to write this for a long time," Wood said. "I've pitched this 4-5 times over the years."

•*Keith Giffen* has been tapped to write ***The Authority: The Lost Year***, a project that picks up with the third issue of the *Grant Morrison/Gene Ha* ***Authority*** project which fell behind schedule. Morrison has conferred with Giffen on the project; so, technically, the book is co-plotted by *Grant Morrison*. The story depicts The Authority as they attempt to return home after being lost in The Bleed. *Darick Robertson*, artist of the project, was excited and explained that Giffen had paid him a great compliment, "Normally, [Giffen] draws little thumbnails for his artists; so, they see exactly how he wants the pages done. With me, he doesn't do that; it's a huge compliment that he trusts me."

•*Adam Beechen & Tim Seeley* will take over the creative honors on ***Wildcats*** beginning with #19. Beechen described his storyline as, "We're putting the Earth back into a livable situation for the 10% of humanity that remains on the planet."

•*Marc Bernardin & Adam Freeman* will take over as writers of ***The Authority*** once Abnett & Lanning leave the book.

•*Phil Hester & Shannon Eric Denton* are taking over ***Gen13***. While the book will maintain a lighter tone, "it's time to grow up a little bit," Denton said. "This is a Gen 13 you've never seen before."

•*Jeff Mariotte & Francesco Francavilla* are working on an action-adventure project, ***Garrison***.

•*David Lapham's* ***Sparta USA*** is an offbeat fantasy tale that focuses on an ex-football-star turned barbarian who returns home after being swept away to a strange fantasy realm.

•*Kurt Busiek* is launching a new series, ***American Gothic***, which features contemporary stories with a ***Twilight Zone***-esque twist; Busiek described it as "a way of inventing an American mythology."

Devil's Due

•***Jericho Season 3*** will see its comic book debut this fall. DDP president *Josh Blaylock* made it clear that Devil's Due is working directly with producers, writers, and even some cast members to ensure that the series presents the story that would have appeared on television had the book been renewed. Executive producer *Dan Shotz* said that "we wanted to keep true to the story that was planned... We wanted the characters to look like the characters, the stories to be from the writers of the show. Many of us are writing the story, but we also have a writer named *Jason Burns* who is going to help us with that.

"The A-story is obviously going to focus on Jake," Shotz said, but we're also going to show things like Hawkins trying to help the right side."

Disney

•Disney is producing a ***Prince of Persia*** anthology written by game franchise creator *Jordan Mechner* that will feature art by such all-stars as *Cameron Stewart, Bernard Chang, Tommy Lee Edwards, David Lopez,* and *Todd McFarlane*, who supplies the cover art. The spring 2010 volume will serve as a prequel to the *Jerry Bruckheimer* helmed, *Jake Gyllenhaal*-starring ***Prince of Persia*** film coming next Memorial day. The book is divided into five chapters, each illustrated by a different artist.

IDW

•*J. Scott Campbell* announced that he has brought his acclaimed cult-fave series ***Danger Girl*** to IDW. The publishers will offer ***Danger Girl*** collections next year, and discussions are already underway regarding a potential new series with Campbell providing cover art. "At this point, IDW was a natural fit for me. I'd ran my course at DC. ***Danger Girl*** started at Wildstorm, and was later grandfathered in to DC, where we had successes. But with editor *Scott Dunbier* at IDW, and the book up for renewal, I felt as though IDW today is the old school Wildstorm. I'm hopeful there's an exciting future at IDW to come."

•*Bob Schreck*, well known for his work at DC and other publishers, will begin working as a member of IDW's editorial staff this fall. "I had to stay quiet and make a decision slowly due to the contract, but from early on this was the frontrunner. I don't start officially until October 5th, but I'm confident that a few of my friends will be along shortly. Really look forward to a lot of fun. Keep your eyes peeled for some weird stuff." (And when you consider that Schreck's friends in the past have included such creators as *Frank Miller, Matt Wagner,* and *Dave Gibbons*, it'll be interesting to see what the near future holds!)

•*Bill Willingham & Gene Ha* are working on a new project, ***Back Roads***, in 2010. Willingham described the project as "*Maxfield Parrish* with guns: adding that it included "everything Ha always wanted to draw, and will never draw again." The series' premise is that *all* places have back entrances that *some* people have access to...

•IDW has landed the rights to *Chuck Dixon & Jorge Zaffino's* ***Winter World***. This ***Mad Max***-ish tale, which focuses on a young girl in a frozen world, will be reprinted for the first time since its publication by Eclipse—and it will be followed by a two-part sequel that has never before seen print.

•The ***Rocketeer*** collections coming from IDW later this year or early next year, will feature totally redone coloring by *Laura Martin* (who was personally selected by *Dave Stevens* prior to his death). In addition to reprinting every *Dave Stevens* Rocketeer story, the books will also include over a hundred supplemental pages of preliminaries, sketches, cover comps, and more.

•Writers *Tim Jones & Mike Johnson* are working on a 6 issue ***Star Trek: Countdown*** "writers' cut" miniseries movie adaptation that will include scenes that did not make it into the final film.

•*Clive Barker* is working with artist *Gabriel Rodriguez* on ***Seduth***, his first original comic in almost two decades. The fall oneshot will also feature 3D work by *Ray Zone*.

•*Billy Martin*, drummer for the band ***Good Charlotte***, is co-writing and drawing ***Vitriol the Hunter***, a monster-hunter book slated for 2010 release.

•***Heroes*** cast member *Brea Grant*, who plays Daphne Milbrook, will co-write a 1920s-era-zombies-tale ***We Will Bury You*** with her brother *Zane Austin Grant*; the project will be illustrated by *Kyle Strahm* with cover art by *Ben Templesmith*.

•*Chris Ryall & Alan Robinson* are bringing one of the grocery store checkout rack's mainstays to comics next year with their new project, ***Weekly World News***. Bat Boy, Ed Anger, Manigator, PhD Ape... they're all in here, just as you remember them from the pages of the sleaziest tabloid of them all. Now we have to see how Ryall & Robinson can make 'em work in comics!...

•IDW has landed the adaptation rights for several projects, including *Peter Beagle's* ***Last Unicorn*** and ***A Fine and Private Place*** and *Harlan Ellison & Ed Bryant's* ***Phoenix Without Ashes***.

•*Jennifer Love Hewitt*, who was already peripherally involved in comics via her likeness and photos being used on the ***Ghost Whisperer*** comics, is taking her involvement to the next level later this year when she debuts her own comic book creation, ***The Music Box***. The ten-issue anthology series centers around a music box that causes strange occurrences in the lives of those who possess it. *Scott Lobdell* writes the series, which is based on Hewitt's concept. Each issue will feature art by a different illustrator; the book launches in November with a story illustrated by *Michael Gaydos*, while *Casey Maloney, Adam Archer,* and *George Tuska & Joe Rubinstein* supply the art for upcoming issues.

•A ***Fallen Angel Omnibus*** is in the works for 2010, collecting all of *Peter David's* acclaimed series—both the IDW issues and the issues originally published by DC!

IT'S A STANDOFF, OCK.
YOU'VE WEAKENED ME...SO I CAN'T GET FREE...
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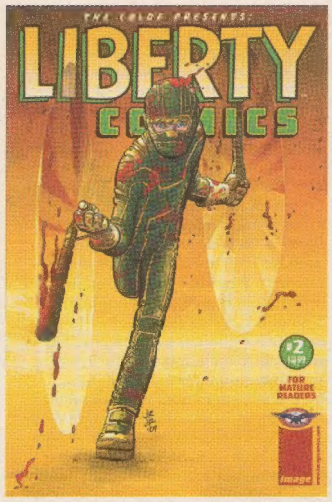
•***Spike*** will join the IDW lineup as an ongoing monthly beginning next year. "It's pretty cool, no bad is too big. He's in the lead roll now, and we're dealing with the aftermath of ***After the Fall***," writer *Brian Lynch* said.
•The landmark ***Angel*** TV episode "A Hole in the World" will be adapted as a five-issue miniseries in 2010.
•*Bill Willingham* will take over as writer of the ongoing ***Angel*** series beginning with #28. Initially, Angel will be missing in action from the series, so Connor will take over in his Dad's place. "[Angel] isn't going to be around for a while, but through the magic of comic books, the readership will know where he is," Willingham said.
•When Willingham begins his stint as writer, he will be joined by writer *Bill Williams*, who will contribute back-up stories in each issue that focus on a new character, Eddie Hope, who is a demon hunting down those who remain tainted by the effects of Hell on Earth. "It's a revenge story. Eddie isn't good or bad, he's just this guy," Williams said. Willingham added that Angel and Eddie wold eventually cross paths.
•Scott Lobdell is writing a new five-issue ***Illyria*** miniseries. "It's a travel story, she's going to a funeral for her uncle. She and Gunn go on a road trip together." This story also focuses on Gunn's struggling to come to terms with not being a vampire any longer.

Dynamite

•Publisher Nick Barrucci said that Dynamite will be the new home of several *Jack Kirby* creations, led by his and *Joe Simon's* ***Fighting American***. Dynamite also has rights to several 1980s Kirby creations, including ***Captain Victory***, ***SilverStar***, and the characters and concepts that Kirby produced for the short-lived Topps Comics line.
•Doug Murray is working on a new series, ***Militia***, an end-of-the-world saga set in a future in which the human race has been all but eliminated by aliens, leaving the last few survivors to hold out against almost impossible odds.

Image

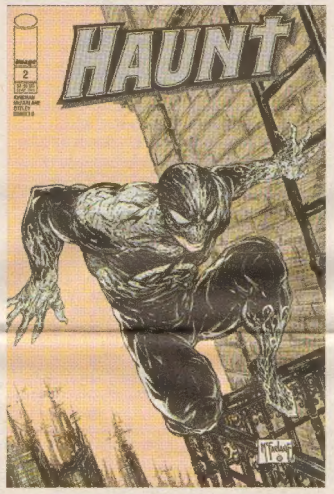
•*Mike Allred* is working on a new series entitled ***One Model Nation***.
•Image is working on ***Liberty Comics #2***, a Comic Book Legal Defense Fund fund-raising book that will feature, among other things, a collaboration between *Neil Gaiman* and *Jim Lee*.
•Templesmith also affirmed that he and *Warren Ellis* are definitely committed to producing more ***Fell*** in the future.



•*Ben Templesmith* is working on a new series, ***Choker***, for Image; it is co-created and written by *Ben McCool* and illustrated by Templesmith, who described it as "crime noir with a bit of a twist in an odd setting."
•*Joe Casey & Andy Suriano* are working on a new project, ***Doc Bizarre, MD***, the story of a doctor who specializes in supernatural and paranormal patients.

•***Existence 2.0*** has been so successful that creators *Nick Spencer and Ron Salas* are working on a sequel, ***Existence 3.0***.
•*Frank Cho & Doug Murray* are co-writing a new project, ***50Girls50***, which Cho described as a cross between ***Star Trek*** and a stripper show. Cho will *not* be illustrating the series, however; he plans to hold a talent search to find the right artist for the project, with the winner being announced at Baltimore Con later this year.

•*Alan Martin & Rufus Dayglo* are producing new ***Tank Girl*** books for Image; their first offering will be a oneshot, ***Tank Girl: Dark Nuggets***, that should debut late this year.
•*Todd McFarlane* has confirmed that he both pencil and ink ***Spawn #200***. He said that he also hoped to bring in the other Image founders to supply bits of flashback material in the special issue.
•*Tyrese Gibson* said that he's working on a ***Mayhem*** original graphic novel for release in late 2009 or early 2010.
•*Robert Kirkman* is working with artists *Cory Walker & Ryan Ottley* on a ***Return of Invincible*** oneshot slated to debut in late 2009. The series will bring the character back to his roots by returning him to his original costume.
•***Astounding Wolf-Man*** will come to an end with the 25th issue of the series. "I just knew that this story arc couldn't be topped currently—so it's fitting that there are four or five issues left—we've still got time to perfect our ending," Kirkman said.



•Work is progressing on ***Haunt***, which will be written by *Robert Kirkman*, pencilled by *Ryan Ottley*, and inked by *Todd McFarlane*. "When we started out, Ryan wasn't sure if he could do two books a month," McFarlane said, "so we're also going to have *Greg Capullo* providing layouts on each issue."

Top Cow/Image

•*Ron Marz* will write the new ongoing series ***The Magdalena***, with *Ryan Sook* supplying cover art. No word yet on who'll do the interior art honors. Marz described the character as "the best in the Top Cow stable."

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AND I JUST WANT OUT.
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I VOTE... WE ARRANGE A TRADE...
MY FREEDOM... FOR A HUNK OF ADAMANTIUM THAT YOU CAN STUDY!
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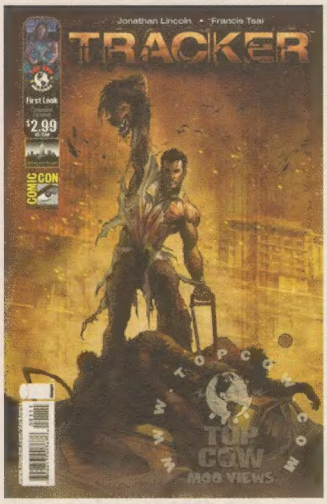

•Top Cow is working with a new management and production company called Heroes & Villains Entertainment on a number of projects, including *Jonathan Lincoln & Francis Tsai's* ***Tracker***. The series, which debuts in November, offers a different take on the werewolf motif. "It combines touches of noir, thrillers and the werewolf genre in a perfect amalgamation," said *Markus Goerg*, a partner at HVE. "The story is so cool and gripping, and the title represents what [HVE's] trying to do as a whole."

•*William Harms* is writing the new series ***Epoch***, which Top Cow president *Matt Hawkins* described as "a supernatural Fight Club" that reveals which supernatural species really is dominant.

•Top Cow's big event story of 2010 will be the *Ron Marz*-written ***Artifacts***, which spins out of ***Witchblade*** and ***Trinity*** story arcs. The story focuses on the thirteen powerful artifact that have been at the core of several Top Cow storylines; not all of those artifacts have been revealed yet, but they will be by the time ***Artifacts*** wraps up.

"The thirteen artifacts in the Top Cow universe tend to be the connective thread between a lot of the characters and the concepts," Marz told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "So this will bring virtually everything that's happening in the universe together by bringing these thirteen artifacts together."

"The intention is to do this in a way that is, with the risk of sounding cliche, going to be the biggest, universe-changing story, in terms of permanent change. I don't know if we can tell a bigger story than this.

"The last few years, Top Cow and I have done smaller-scale crossover events. We did the first one, which involved Sara Pezzini, who was the Witchblade bearer, having a baby. And last year we did ***Broken Trinity***, which introduced some new characters and new artifacts into the universe," he explained. "Those were six-issue events, with three issues of the main title and three tie-in issues. So we generally kept these crossover things fairly small and manageable, as opposed to a huge Marvel or DC crossover, where you're talking about 30 or 40 books and $150 bucks or something like that.

"So we're essentially doubling the scale of what we're doing," Marz said. "It'll pull in a lot of different aspects of the Top Cow universe and the scope of it will be larger than any of the crossover events we've done before."

Marz said that the crossover will be of major consequence to the Top Cow universe. Unlike other publishers, Top Cow is determined to deliver a fictional-universe-changing storyline. Once all thirteen artifacts are put together, " bad stuff will happen," Marz said.

•*Milo Ventimiglia's* ***Rest***, which began at Devil's Due, is relocating to Top Cow (which is the home of Ventimiglia's other series, ***Berserker***).

•The upcoming ***Cyberforce-Hunter/Killer*** crossover series by *Mark WAid & Kenneth Rocafort* will pave the way for the relaunch of the ***Cyberforce*** franchise, with Rocafort supplying the art (no word yet on who'll be writing, however).

•*Marc Silvestri* has designed a trio of new projects: ***Jack the Giant Killer***, ***Warrior***, and ***Midway Earth***. No word on premises, though—only titles.

Marvel

•*Charlie Huston* is working with artist *Lan Medina* on a new ***Deathlok*** series for the Marvel Knights imprint. The new miniseries is set in the very near future—but the world of this series is removed from the mainline Marvel Universe. "Essentially, this is a reimagining of the classic *Rich Buckler / Doug Moench* origin from ***Astonishing Tales***," Huston told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Chris Arrant*. "In the original books, one of the storytelling gigs was having Manning's internal monologue talking to the Deathlok computer, and in this we have both Travers and Manning incorporated into that mix."

"In this world, wars are being fought by proxy military armies that the government contracts with to fight their battles for them," Huston explains. These wars also provide a spectator sport for the public at large.

"Originally I thought I might try to integrate Deathlok into the Marvel Universe. Many years ago they added a time travel aspect to the character, bringing him back from the future to team with Captain America and the Thing at times. At first I thought it'd be fun to get his continuity in sync with Marvel U and have a usable Deathlok to add to the mix... but the more I thought about the original concept and its sci-fi / action roots, it doesn't really blend well with a superhero universe.

"Much the same way that Marvel made Ghost Rider a horror book distinct from the Marvel Universe, Deathlok needs to be a sci-fi book. It's a sci-fi adventure story with dark tones and a great deal of satire and black humor."

•The Red Hulk has proven so popular that *Joe Quesada* revealed that that the Red She-Hulk is on the way, too. "We kind of figured that since we won't tell you who the Red Hulk is, we won't tell you who the Red She-Hulk is," writer *Jeph Loeb* said.

•Colorist *Laura Martin* has signed an exclusive contract with Marvel. She will continue to color the adaptations of *Stephen King's* ***The Stand***, and will also color *Olivier Coipel's* next big post-***Thor*** project. "There is one project I will be working on, but I'm maintaining radio silence on that one, as it hasn't been announced yet," Martin told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "My apologies for teasing! You can expect more Laura goodness on these projects. Hopefully, with the exclusive, I won't be hopping around from project to project quite so much, and can dedicate more time to each page, exploring new palettes and techniques."

•The long-awaited confrontation between Tony Stark and Iron Patriot is coming in ***Invincible Iron Man #19***.

•*Jeph Loeb & John Romita Jr.* are working on a oneshot, ***Gamma***, that leads into this winter's big Hulk event, ***World War Hulks***. "If you thought World War Hulk was big, this is bigger," Loeb said.

•Publisher *Dan Buckley* said that the relaunched Ultimate Comics line will expand to include "four or five books a month, starting in January."

•Marvel continues its Noir line with ***X-Men Noir: Mark of Cain*** by *Fred Van Lente & Dennis Calero* in December.

•*Reginald Hudlin & Denys Cowan* explore the Black Panther's family history in ***Captain America/Black Panther: Flags of Our Fathers***, a four-part Marvel Knights series that involves Black Panther's father.

•Marvel's ***Marvel Adventures*** line is going through some redirection, with the all-ages line—which has thus far focused on stand-alone stories— beginning to see some cohesion in upcoming months.

•Marvel indicated that the end of ***Dark Reign*** is approaching in the next few months, and once the storyline (which they described as the third act of a long saga that started with ***Civil War*** and continued through ***Secret Invasion***) wraps up, they'll ""avoid the whole over-arcing thing, for at least 12 months," *Joe Quesada* said. He explained that he knows that fans need a break from that, and creators do as well—but he did remind the audience that these story arcs sell incredibly well.

•Writer *Allan Heinberg* is working on a ***Young Avengers*** storyline that *Joe Quesada* described as "massive." No word on when it might see print (but considering Heinberg's track record on DC's ***Wonder Woman***, they might want to get all those scripts in house first...).

TwoMorrows

•The company responsible for ***The Jack Kirby Collector***, ***Back Issue***, ***Alter Ego***, and other acclaimed magazines about the comics industry is about to launch one of most ambitious comics history programs to date. ***The American Comic Book Chronicles*** will be a multi-volume series that will feature at least one volume documenting each decade

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since the modern comic book's inception in the 1930s. Two of the most influential decades, the 1940s and the 1960s, will be the focus of at least two volumes each. Contributors to the comprehensive history include *Roy Thomas*, *Bill Schelly*, and *Keith Dallas*, who will not only write the first release in the series (focusing on the 1980s—the books will *not* be released in chronological order, obviously), but is also the editor of the project. Plans call for the first volume to appear in 2010 and subsequent volumes to appear as they're completed. As with all TwoMorrows projects, the goal is to make these books the best and most comprehensive, and the publisher will allow time to make sure that each book lives up to TwoMorrows standards.

Eisner Winners Announced

The 2009 Eisner Awards were presented at Comic-Con International: San Diego on July 24th. The winners are:

•**Best Short Story**: "Murder He Wrote," by *Ian Boothby, Nina Matsumoto, & Andrew Pepoy*, in ***The Simpsons' Treehouse of Horror #14*** (Bongo)

•**Best Continuing Series**: *All Star Superman*. by *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely* (DC)

•**Best Limited Series**: ***Hellboy: The Crooked Man***, by *Mike Mignola & Richard Corben* (Dark Horse)

•**Best New Series**: ***Invincible Iron Man***, by *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larocca* (Marvel)

•**Best Publication for Kids**: ***Tiny Titans***, by *Art Baltazar & Franco* (DC)

•**Best Publication for Teens/Tweens**: ***Coraline***, by *Neil Gaiman*, adapted by *P. Craig Russell* (HarperCollins Children's Books)

•**Best Humor Publication**: ***Herbie Archives***, by *"Shane O'Shea" (Richard E. Hughes) & Ogden Whitney* (Dark Horse)

•**Best Anthology**: ***Comic Book Tattoo: Narrative Art Inspired by the Lyrics and Music of Tori Amos***, edited by *Rantz Hoseley* (Image)

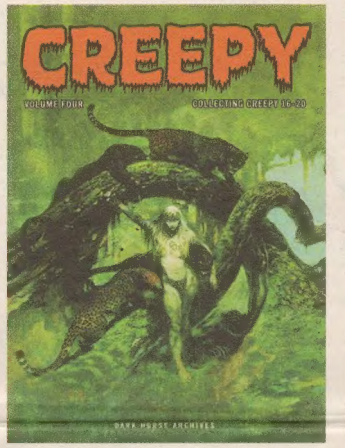
•**Best Webcomic**: ***Finder***, by *Carla Speed McNeil*, www.shadowlinecomics.com/ webcomics/#/finder/

•**Best Reality-Based Work**: ***What It Is***, by *Lynda Barry* (Drawn & Quarterly)

•**Best Graphic Album—New**: ***Swallow Me Whole***, by *Nate Powell* (Top Shelf)

•**Best Graphic Album—Reprint**: ***Hellboy Library Edition, vols. 1 & 2***, by *Mike Mignola* (Dark Horse)

•**Best Archival Collection/Project—Strips**: ***Little Nemo in Slumberland, Many More Splendid Sundays***, by *Winsor McCay* (Sunday Press Books)



•**Best Archival Collection/Project—Comic Books**: ***Creepy Archives***, by various (Dark Horse)

•**Best Cover Artist**: *James Jean*, ***Fables*** (Vertigo/DC); ***The Umbrella Academy*** (Dark Horse)

•**Best Coloring**: *Dave Stewart*, ***Abe Sapien: The Drowning***, ***BPRD***, ***The Goon***, ***Hellboy***, ***Solomon Kane***, ***The Umbrella Academy*** (Dark Horse); ***Body Bags*** (Image); ***Captain America: White (Marvel)***

•**Best Writer**: *Bill Willingham*, ***Fables***, ***House of Mystery*** (Vertigo/DC)

•**Best U.S. Edition of International Material**: ***The Last Musketeer***, by *Jason* (Fantagraphics)

•**Best Writer/Artist**: *Chris Ware*, ***Acme Novelty Library*** (Acme)

•**Best Lettering**: *Chris Ware*, ***Acme Novelty Library #19*** (Acme)

•**Best U.S. Edition of International Material—Japan**: ***Dororo***, by *Osamu Tezuka* (Vertical)

•**Best Painter/Multimedia Artist**: *Jill Thompson*, ***Magic Trixie***, ***Magic Trixie Sleeps Over*** (HarperCollins Children's Books)

•**Best Comics-Related Book**: ***Kirby: King of Comics***, by *Mark Evanier* (Abrams)

•**Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team**: *Guy Davis*, ***BPRD*** (Dark Horse)

•**Best Comics-Related Periodical/Journalism**: ***Comic Book Resources***, produced by *Jonah Weiland*, www.comicbookresources.com

•**Best Publication Design**: ***Hellboy Library Editions***, designed by *Cary Grazzini & Mike Mignola* (Dark Horse)

•**Hall of Fame: Judges' Choices**: *Harold Gray, Graham Ingels;*

•**Hall of Fame: Voters' Choices**: *Matt Baker, Reed Crandall, Russ Heath, Jerry Iger*

SET ME FREE, OCK... AND I'LL SLICE OFF...ONE OF MY CLAWS...
SO YOU CAN PLAY "MAD SCIENTIST" WITH IT!
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